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NEWS & VIEWS

February 2012

40p

SERVICES

SUNDAY 8AM. HOLY COMMUNION
10am. PARISH COMMUNION
(Family Service 1st Sunday in the month)

THURSDAY 10am HOLY COMMUNION
Morning Prayer is said 9am. Monday to Friday

PEOPLE

Vicar: The Revd. Andrew Bullock 706 9764
34 Dudley Park Road, B27 6QR

Curate: The Revd. Roy Anetts 753 1542
Hay Mills Vicarage, 7 Fordrough, Yardley
B258DL

Asst. Priest: The Revd. Susan Restall 783 3325
12 Croft Road, Yardley, B26 1SG

Reader: Mrs Sheila Huckfield-Powell 628 7105
45 Mansfield Road, B25 8LX

Wardens: Miss Ann Cloney 707 2828
50 Beeches Avenue, B27 6LP

Mr Hugh Kennedy 706 6202
6 Sapphire Court, Chelmscote Road
Olton, B92 8BZ

Treasurer: Mrs Tina Sirett 628 7154
410 Stockfield Road, B25 8JJ

PCC Minute Secretary Mrs Jane Large 628 1816
432 Barrows Lane, B26 1QL

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

SUNDAY 10AM IN THE MEETING ROOM
CONTACT TEL: 706 9764

ORGANISATIONS

(These are usually in the meeting room)

Ladies Group First Tuesday 7.30pm. Val Corke 708 0636

Parent & Toddler Wednesday 9.30am. Isobelle Jones 624 0467
Elaine Parry 680 0247

Trefoil Guild First Wednesday 2.00pm. Pat Mudway 707 6766

Rainbows Wednesday 5.00pm. Celia Mallison 624 0337

Guides Wednesday 7.00pm. Celia Mallison 624 0337

Choir Thursday 6.30pm. David Streeter 707 2219

Brownies Friday 6.15pm. Coral Redpath 742 0024

Cover Donated by W.H.Painter

FROM THE REGISTER

Baptisms:

Evie Roma Janet WHITE



Weddings:



Funerals:

Dorothy Annie COLLINS (94)

William "Bill" TYLER (69)

Elsie May BATES (91)

Gladys Jeanie McDONALD (102)



THE MARCH MAGAZINE

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Editors email sheliahuckfield@yahoo.com

WEB SITE: www.stmarysacocksgreen.org



OPEN CHURCH

Come and meet us

Have a coffee and a chat

Pray and light a candle

Take time to ponder

EVERY SATURDAY 10AM. -12 NOON

From the Vicar.....

Ash Wednesday arrives in Lent, far too soon after Christmas, and it is time to think carefully about your faith-life, and in fact think about life itself!



Traditionally on that day, I burn as many of last year's Palm Crosses as possible (you may like to spot where yours is so that we can ready the pyre for this year's Ash Wednesday -22nd Feb, 7.30pm), giving us a reminder of mortality – how everything turns back to dust, even us. We are reminded of this not to be maudlin, although the thought does tend to bring one up short (!), no, it is

to get our minds in the proper perspective.

For too long our society has relied on comfort and wonderful things, buying life on credit and not worrying about debt. When life is easy and the future looks never-endingly rosy, it is so tempting to think that it has all been by our own hand, that it will always be this way, and there is no need to look elsewhere. God may be seen as unnecessary.

But there are no guarantees in life – not of never ending health, comfort, fortune, relationship. We do need to be reminded of Who gives us life in the first place, let alone our families and friends, and to be grateful for that life to the One above who gave His only Son for our life. Everything else comes second!



On Ash Wednesday, as part of the ceremony, you will receive the cross in ash on your forehead, and I will say:

**“Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.”**

May you be blessed by God’s Peace as you hear these words and see life in its proper perspective – as it is related to God and his Love. For you are loved – despite being ash – you are loved by God to the end of time!

Fr. Andrew

CONFIRMATION 2012 - *Would you like to delve deeper into your faith and be confirmed in 2012? We will soon be setting up 8-10 sessions for an hour on Sunday afternoons, leading to Confirmation by Bishop Andrew on Wednesday 12th June at 7.30pm, venue to be confirmed. Interested? Then please have a word with the Vicar.*

LENT at the VICARAGE

Never been before - why not try it this year!!

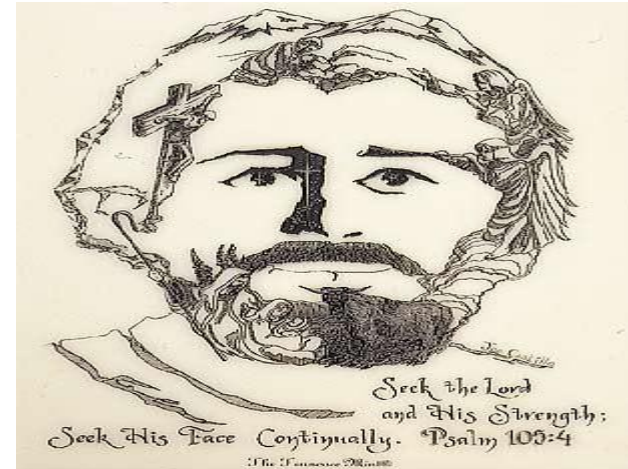
Come and join us at the Vicarage on Fridays in March for the Lent Bible Studies - always a great time for a chat, reflection on great Cross and Resurrection themes, and sharing of our faith stories.

At

St Mary's Vicarage, 34 Dudley Park Road
Fridays - March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, & 30th

An amazing picture

The gentleman who drew this is Joe Castillo. He went to Asbury Theological Seminary. He did this during a chapel service. He told the Gospel story - each part of Jesus' life – and he was drawing the picture as he told the story. No one realized until the end what the entire picture was. A rare talent!!!



The 'longer' you look at this picture, the 'more' you see. Look at the lines the artist used to draw this picture of Christ... It is of scenes from Christ's life. Have you ever seen anything like this!!!!

Mother and Toddler

A busy month was had in December, along with all our usual activities we had Beep Beep Down when we had someone from Road Safety teaching the children how to cross the road and they also provided them with bike bells and pin on glow in the dark badges. We ended the month with our Christmas part and the Nativity story told by Father Andrew, plus a visit from Father Christmas on Christmas Eve Children’s Worship performed the nativity play with help from other children who played angels or shepherds. A very busy time was had over Christmas with all the services and our new term has started off very busily so watch this space.



Music at St Mary's



We are very pleased to announce that the



will be giving a concert in church on the weekend of the Flower Festival, on **Saturday 26th May 7.30pm**. Please put this date in your diary and tell your family and friends. It will be an occasion you will not want to miss! Tickets £6 - available at the beginning of April.

Have you considered joining the church choir?

Do you love to sing and want to add to the worship at St Mary's. Maybe you are not able to give the full commitment of every Thursday night and Sunday morning.

There will be an opportunity to join the choir for Easter coming soon. We will be preparing for the Service of Music and Readings for Holy Week on Wednesday 4th April at 7.30pm. This involves attending 5 rehearsals. (Thursdays in March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th) You may also like to sing in the choir on Palm Sunday and Easter Day.
Gillian



Elmdon Choral Society Concert Saturday 31st March 7.30pm

Conductor: Steve Davis Organ: Margaret Hill

Requiem: *Ian Higginson*
and some other well-known church anthems including
Hear My Prayer: *Mendelssohn*
Blessed be the God and Father: *Wesley*
And I saw a new Heaven: *Bainton*

FINANCE

November Figures

Income:

Planned Giving: £1646.88
Cash: £ 445.60

Expenditure

Common Fund: £2460.00
3rd Instl. Staging £3495.62
4th Instl. Staging £4326.65
Other Expenses £2276.29

Total: £2092.48 Total £12558.56

£124.14 was raised for The Children's Society from the Christingles and Carol Service.

£379.96 was raised for Birmingham Christmas Shelter from the Craft Stall and a Special Collection.

Tina Sirett (Hon. Treasurer)

Items left for our fundraising

Thank you to all who are collecting things for reselling, but we are trying to keep the back of church tidy and more items appear without warning.

It would be helpful if you could ascertain if the person dealing with the items you have for resale, is either able to take them away that day, or could you deliver straight to them direct. The stallholders need to be aware you have left things for them too.

Thanks the Fabric Committee

LENT EVENTS

Tues 21st Feb, 7pm - Shrove Tuesday Pancakes - Meeting Room

Wednesday 22nd Feb, 7.30pm - Holy Communion with Ashing

Vicarage Bible Studies

Fridays 7.30pm in March - 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, & 30th

Churches Together Lent Lunches

Thursdays 12-1pm in March - 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

Swan Group Lent Lunches

3 Saturdays 12-1pm - March 3rd - St Michael's

March 24th - here at St Mary's

March 31st - St Cyprian's

Dates for your Diary-February

5th Candlemass Service 6.30pm St Mary's

16th Stewardship Meeting 6pm St Luke's

24th & 25th Hall Green Little Theatre Trip (see Gill)

25th Magazine meeting 10.30 Meeting Room

31st Elmdon Choral Society 7.30pm St Mary's

Other Dates – More details to follow

25th March AGM 11.30 in Church after 10am service

1st April Palm Sunday normal services

2-4 April Special evening events

4th April 7.30 Service of Music & Readings for Holy Week

5th April Maundy Thursday Service

6th April Walk of Faith

7th April Holy Saturday

8th April Easter Sunday

13th – 19th May Christian Aid Week

25th – 26th May Flower Festival Weekend

12th June Deanery Confirmation Evening

16th June Garden Party

7th July Carnival

LADIES GROUP NEWS

Despite not having our Tuesday meetings for the past two months, the group has been busy in other ways.

Isobelle encouraged us in producing some of the attractive goods for the craft table in aid of Christmas Shelter, which together with the raffle resulted in more than £300 to help the homeless at Christmas

During December a few of us with the help of members with cars, made a visit to Nutcutts Garden Centre, concluding with afternoon tea. This was much appreciated with the wish to make other outings.

Please note our next meeting is on Tuesday February 7th at 2pm in the Meeting Room, with Kath Hodges demonstrating the art of patchwork plus bringing some completed items.

March 6th is our Lent Talk with Reverend Sue at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room as usual.

Val Corke.



Out prints from church notices.

Remember the many who are sick within our community, smile at someone who is hard to love and say "Hell" to someone who does not care much about you

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married here on 24th October, so ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Please place your donation in an envelope together with the deceased person you want remembered.

Thanks to Margaret Tyler for the above

Flower Box

Many of our folk are now planning their arrangements for our Flower Festival and no it does not happen by divine intervention, but a lot of hard work too. If you feel able there is now a wooden box at the back of church collecting any spare change you might have, to help with the costs of this event. Flowers are very dear and we try to keep prices as low as possible but they need to be paid for.

This is a great chance for folk to come into St Mary's to see the arrangements and talk with us, plus we have a concert on the Saturday Evening where visitors are welcome. Help us to make this a success.



BILL TYLER

Margaret, Anthony, Kate and the extended family, wish to thank everyone for all your cards and continuing prayers, thoughts and love at this most difficult time.



Margaret Tyler

Christmas with Esther

Before Christmas Carys and her husband took Esther to Church just outside Wimbledon where the Wimbledon Chorus Society had their Concert. They took her, as in the past they have allowed Canine Partner dogs and Carys wasn't too worried as Esther is usually good in Church. All went well and Esther settled nicely. At half-time Carys nipped her outside and found a safe spot for a "comfort break" before the second half. The whole concert was superb and put everyone in the Christmas mood! At the end of the concert the audience clapped like mad and Esther who had never experienced anything like this before wasn't too sure. The conductor then gave a little talk the audience again went mad with whoops and clapping and Esther was a bit more worried but coped very well. Carys was very pleased with her as it was loud and Esther didn't get really silly about it.

Christmas morning Carys and family went to Church and she had children running up and down the aisle, but behaved very well and managed to ignore them with a bit of bribery! The last time Esther had encountered a young toddler in the pews was when a very active young man was trying to get to her! Fortunately it's not easy to Esther and she wasn't sure she wanted him to; so she decided to "look the other way" –she would not have hurt the young boy, but she might have bounced about and the space is very small!!

In Esther's weekly class she has good and silly weeks. The worst of which was one when Carys took Esther into a local town – Petersfield. For some reason Esther became wildly excited and spent more time on two legs bouncing around than on four! Fortunately when Carys took her into 'Waitrose' supermarket Esther put her sensible hat on and behaved beautifully, although as soon as Esther came out of the supermarket she was off again!! Then Carys took her into 'Boots' and her sensible behaviour reappeared! Carys said you could see people in the street wondering what on earth this dog was doing! It is almost as though she gets so excited she has to explode. Just as well she isn't like that every day.

Carys and her husband went to their friends 80th birthday lunch recently and Esther had to miss her class, so Esther went on the following day which is for older puppies. Carys found it interesting, because the class was slightly different to what Esther is used to and she didn't know the pups, but Esther was obviously taking everything in and she behaved and worked very well. Carys is hoping this is a sign of more good things to come.



Don't 4 get it's
VALENTINES DAY
on the 14th Feb.

Gifts and novelties for your loved ones will be on sale in church
Sunday 5th & 12th after 10am service also
Saturday 11th during Open Church 10 – 12.

*Simply swap something
you use regularly to a FAIRTRADE
version e.g. tea, coffee, toilet rolls,
tissues.
Traidcraft sales table in
Church every 2 weeks.*



2012 is a leap year – enjoy the extra day.
Here's some interesting facts.

- Hundreds of years ago the leap year day had no recognition in English law. The day was 'leapt over' and ignored, hence the term 'leap year'.
- The extra day is added every 4 years to bring the solar year of 365.25 days into line with the calendar year of 365 days.
- The one day of the year on which, traditionally, women can propose to men! Watch out, boys!!
- A law once existed forbidding a man to refuse a proposal made to him!
- In Scotland it is thought unlucky to be born on a Leap Year's Day.

Shoebox appeal 2011 Where did they go last year?

Belarus 273,234; Bosnia 72,948; Kenya 15,433; Kosova 28,496;
Kyrgyzstan 81,738; Liberia 63,340; Montenegro 20,585,
Mozambique 14,744; Romania 155,236; Serbia 109,931; Swaziland
72,047; Ukraine (Crimea) 110,847; Ukraine (Kiev) 47,741.

Bane's Story

With a population of about 1.1 million, the small nation of Swaziland in southern Africa, has the highest prevalence of HIV than any other country in the world 26% of the adult population tested positive for HIV. Eleven year old Bane could not attend the distribution point at a local school as she is crippled and lives too far away. The team visited her taking the chance to pray and also give her a shoebox gift.

When Bane saw all the gifts inside she was so happy, she began jumping up and down and praising God in spite of her disabilities. Her mum just sat there crying as she had never seen her daughter so happy nor expressing joy in this way. It was a special moment in Bane's life and also for the team who experienced time with her family

The work is not just to send shoeboxes to Swaziland but working through the rural churches the scheme has worked for the last 4 years caring for AIDS orphans and providing vulnerable women with a livelihood and recently a project to provide clean water has been started.

